Population – 1938

Alabama

POPULATION IN ALABAMA

In Mobile yesterday Dr. J. N. Baker, State Health Officer, told the State Medical Association that although Alabama's population has increased by 25 per cent in the last 25 years the number of Alabama doctors has decreased by one sixth.

A few weeks ago Dr. A. H. Collins, State Superintendent of Education, showed that in a 20-year-period the combined area of 42 counties of the State's 67 had actually lost some 4,000 persons, despite the gain of the whole of more than 500,000. He showed that the 25 other counties had made a gain equal to that of the whole state and the loss of the 42 counties, proving, as he said that certain areas are virtually static.

A further perplexing condition is that in the 42 counties in which there is a static populaton, the birth rate is higher than in the counties where the population has gained so markedly.

Dr. Baker explained some of the decrease in number of doctors by showing that the decrease was most marked in those counties which a recent TVA survey had shown were those with the lowest per capita spendable incomes.

The export of our best talent in the way of Southern youth going to the East or West has long been recognized as one of the worst forms of waste in the Southeast. Checking soil erosion will do little good if the cream of the talent expected to use the restored land no longer looks upon it as home.

More than half the gain of the 25 growing counties came from the 42 static counties, Dr. Collins showed. Thus there has not been any large migration to Alabama, and the suspicion is that there has probably been an appreciable migration from our State. If we grow normally as a people all phases of our culture should, by normal standards, grow in proportion.

Thus, though half our population increase in 20 years is due to our own fecundity, we have lost more than one sixth of one of the most important professional classes.

It is a gratifying note that our leaders are studying such trends and conditions with a vigor greater than ever before. Out of such accurate knowledge will not only come a complete recognition of the scope of our problems, but certainly some indication of the path leading out.

Opelika, Ala. News
September 10, 1938

Lee Among 18 Ala. Counties, Negroes Outnumber Whites

Montgomery —(Special)— There are 18 counties in Alabama in which the negroes outnumber the whites. These counties are Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Sumter and Wilcox.

Centreville, Ala., Press
September 8, 1938

NEGRO POPULATION

There are eighteen counties in Alabama in which the negroes out number the whites. These counties are Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Sumter and Wilcox.

Blackbelt Population Of Negroes Is Waning

The number of negro children in Alabama's Black-Belt region is declining, it was revealed yesterday in school census figures gathered for the State Department of Education.

A. R. Meadows, supervisor of research, said at least 12 Black-Belt counties from which reports had been received showed fewer negro children than two years ago. Only one, Montgomery, showed an increase.

Thirty-three of 58 counties from which reports have been received in a State-wide census of children 7 to 20 years of age showed a decrease in the number of negroes.

Meadows expressed the opinion a widespread shift from cotton farming to dairying and livestock production in the Black-Belt was partly responsible for the decrease in negro children.

Neither dairying nor livestock production requires the amount of labor used in cotton farming, he said.

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Neither dairying nor livestock production requires the amount of labor used in cotton farming, he said.

Number Of Negro Youths In Black Belt Is Declining

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 15 —(AP)—The number of Negro children in Alabama's Black Belt region is declining, it was revealed Thursday in school census figures gathered for the State Department of Education.

A. R. Meadows, supervisor of research, said at least 12 Black Belt counties from which reports had been received showed fewer Negro children than two years ago. Only one, Montgomery, showed an increase.

Thirty-three of 58 counties from which reports have been received in a statewide census of children 7 to 20 years of age showed a decrease in the number of Negroes.

Meadows expressed the opinion a widespread shift from cotton farming to dairying and livestock production in the Black Belt was partly responsible for the decrease in Negro children.

Neither dairying nor livestock production require the amount of labor used in cotton farming, he said.

Greenville, Ala., Advocate
September 22, 1938

Colored Population Decreases

Alabama's negro population has increased from 827,307 in 1900 to 944,843 in 1930, while the white population has increased from 1,001,152 in 1900 to 1,700,775 in 1930. In other words a little more than 45 per cent of Alabama's population was negroes in 1900. This had dropped to less than 36 per cent in 1930.

Oneonta, Ala., Democrat
September 15, 1938

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Greenville, Ala., Advocate
September 22, 1938

Heavy Colored Population

There are eighteen counties in Alabama in which the negroes outnumber the whites. These counties are Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Sumter and Wilcox.

Troy, Ala., Messenger
September 3, 1938

NERGO POPULATION.

In the United States there are about eleven and three-quarter million negroes, or in round numbers 11,758,000.

The great bulk of the negro population is in the Southeastern States, namely seven and three-quarter millions.

The Southwestern States have slightly over a million negroes.

The Middle States have a million and a fifth in negro inhabitants.

There are half million negroes in the Northeastern States.

The Northwest has 97,000 negroes, and the Far West 9,000 negroes.

About one-third or 33 per cent of Alabama's population is composed of the negro race.

Pike county is not in the black belt, but is near the edge of that area. We have in this county many negroes, but the majority of Pike's population is white.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
September 16, 1938

Blackbelt Population Of Negroes Is Waning

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A. R. Meadows, supervisor of research, said at least 12 Black-Belt counties from which reports had been received showed fewer negro children than two years ago. Only one, Montgomery, showed an increase.

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Ft. Deposit, Ala., Signal
September 23, 1938

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Population - 1938

General

Greensboro, N. C. News
February 28, 1938

DR. ODUM'S PROPHECY.

In a recent address at Atlanta Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina, made outright prediction that in 20 years the negro population of Georgia will be living most largely in the cities and very little of it on the farms and in the farm villages. The facts as to conditions and trends from which this conclusion proceeds are familiar to students of regional economy and sociology. It is a field in which Dr. Odum is a foremost authority, if indeed his monumental work in its does not stand alone. What is said of Georgia applies wherever conditions are similar; that is to say, throughout the cotton country. In brief, the shift will be due to such things as increasing use of machinery in farming, changes with respect to land tenure and use, reduction of cotton acreage, changing customs of cotton production, development of rural villages.

Some nine million of the 13 million or so of negro citizens of the United States are classed as dwellers in the "rural" south. The major part of these are still on the farms. The relatively few cities of the region then, unless something in the nature of a blessed miracle interposes, may contemplate, whether they prepare for it or not, large increases of lowest - income population. How are opportunities of gainful employment, limited now, to be expanded, so that the abilities of the negro as a worker can be utilized, and the taxes he pays contribute substantially to the provision of such public services as sanitation and education?

In 10 Cities

Population Has Jumped Since 1930

The colored population in the 10 largest U.S. cities has increased 133,000 since 1930, according to estimates of the various health departments.

These figures show New York, Chicago and Philadelphia far in the lead and Washington taking fourth place away from Baltimore.

		Census 1930	Estimate 1938
1.	New York	327,706	348,152
2.	Chicago	233,903	241,801
3.	Philadelphia	219,599	228,309
4.	Washington	132,068	167,910
5.	Baltimore	142,106	149,757
6.	New Orleans	129,632	143,828
7.	Detroit	120,066	126,138
8.	Birmingham	99,077	108,968
9.	Memphis	96,550	105,082
10.	Atlanta	90,075	104,051
TOTAL		1,590,782	1,723,996

Letters To The Editor

RACIAL PERCENTAGES

To The Commercial Appeal:

Having read about Senator Bilbo's fears of "negro domination" in Mississippi and the South, as expressed in his recent speech to the Legislature, I went to the United States Census Reports in search of the facts. This is what I found:

Far from threatening to swamp the white race, the proportion of negroes in the total population has been decreasing steadily for many years—in Mississippi, in the South, and in the whole country. In 1900 negroes comprised 58 per cent of the population of Mississippi; in 1910 56 per cent; in 1920 52, and in 1930 a fraction over 50.

From 1900 to 1930 the white population of Mississippi increased 55 per cent, the negro population only 11 per cent. From 1910 to 1930, a period of considerable migration, the colored population of Mississippi showed a net increase of only 231 persons, while the white population increased by 210,745. A census taken today would doubtless show a decided white majority in the state.

Similar trends are found throughout the South and the Nation. In 1790 negroes made up 19 per cent of the national population, or practically one in five. In 1930 they numbered only nine per cent plus, or not quite one in ten.

In 1880 36 per cent of the South's population was colored, or more than one in three. In 1930 only 24 per cent was colored, or less than one in four. Meantime in every one of the original Southern states the percentage of colored population has steadily decreased.

In the light of these growing white majorities it is difficult to see why anyone should grow excited about the situation. The real problem that confronts the white man, it seems to me, is that of according simple justice and normal opportunity to a minority group largely unable to secure these advantages for themselves.

R. B. ELEAZER.

Atlanta, Ga.

Columbia S C State
July 6, 1938

Negroes Growing Fewer in South

That Is Proportion to Whites Shown to Be Decreasing

Washington, July 5—(AP)—The national resources committee reported today the proportion of Negroes in the population of most Southern cities has been decreasing.

The committee's section on population problems found: "The Northward migration of Negroes has been almost entirely to large urban centers.

The committee in its annual report cited a new characteristic of the South: "Rapid reduction in reproductive tendency among both whites and Negroes, with decreases in net fertility between 20 and 40 per cent. in most of the Southern states."

This, the committee said, was clearly due to:

"1. The increase of urbanism.

"2. The spread through these groups of the lower birth rate pattern which was already widespread in most other parts of the United States."

THE POPULATION REPORT

As the human body is a tissue of cells, so is the nation a structure of its individuals. The trends of this mass, social, economic and biological, are the measure of the nation's health and vitality. The survey of the National Resources Committee on "Problems of a Changing Population," transmitted to the President today, is an exhaustive and thoughtful diagnosis of the present condition of the American people and a forecast of their future. Its main conclusion is that the United States is approaching maturity and can look forward to a vigorous middle age.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the report is the prediction that our population will reach a maximum peak of 158,000,000 within fifty years. There will then be a period of stabilization followed by a slow decrease. Indeed, the committee estimates that certain tendencies may bring the population peak forward to 1955 with a maximum of 138,000,000 and a loss of 10,000,000 in the next quarter-century. No occasion for alarm is felt in either event. "There is no reason for the hasty adoption of any measure to stimulate population growth in this country," says the report, either by raising the birth rate or by lowering our immigration standards.

The most salient feature of the survey is a consideration of the condition of our people when they reach their peak of numbers. They will then have come of age. Here the committee quotes the Minnesota State Planning Board: "This is in no sense a cause for gloom. The period of middle age may be for a nation, as for an individual, the most productive and happiest period of existence. We are, however, face to face with the sober and thought-provoking necessity for developing a way of life for a mature community."

The vast churning, the marches and countermarches, the rise and fall of the economic pulse in a land and people so various as ours are baffling. Nevertheless, certain trends begin to appear. The frontier is gone. The land is occupied. The rate of growth is falling off. During the depression it dropped by half from the previous decade, and even then it was slackening. But in the years from 1921 to 1925 more babies in proportion to the population were born than will probably ever be born again in the United States. We may picture these children as the crest of a declining wave sweeping down the years and conditioning every phase of life they touch. They will reach marriageable age about 1945, when they will become the pioneers of a new future.

But the death rate is also falling. The nation's health, except for an alarming increase of mental ailments is better. This means a continuing rise in the ratio of older workers to younger adults, more competition, perhaps more misery among the old, though not necessarily. So "problems relating to the welfare of persons past middle age are becoming increasingly urgent." Means must be found to spread enjoyment into the downhill side of life.

Not all the signs are rosy. Most children are still born in backward areas. The most advanced and intelligent members of the community still have the smallest families. For most of our retrograde trends the committee's firm recommendation is equalization of opportunity, economic and educational. On the whole, its view of the future is optimistic. It believes our transition to a stationary population may be beneficial, leaving us to enjoy the largest individual share of natural resources in the world and, if we use those resources wisely, the highest standard of living.

OLDER AGE GROUPS GROWING

Shifts in Components of Our Population Raise Social and Economic Problems

By RUSSELL OWEN

The slowly increasing proportion of older people in the United States is bringing about profound social changes and creating new problems. Some of them are discussed in last week's report of the Committee on Population Problems to the National Resources Committee—a report which predicts a population peak of 158,000,000 in 1980 and then a slow decrease.

The result of the shift in the size of the age groups, brought about by a declining birth rate and increasing longevity, is that proportionately more money will be needed for social security for the aged and proportionately less for education of the young, although education will be more and more a prerequisite for a contented old age.

The decrease in the number of young people and increase in the number of old is the most startling prediction in the report. Assuming medium fertility, those in the age group up to 4 years will decrease from 11,131,000 in 19[illegible] 9,906,000 in 1980. Those in the group from 5 to 19 will decrease in the same period from 32,052,000 to 30,046,000. In the group from 20 to 44 there will be first a slight increase and then a drop to approximately the 1940 figure.

But in the group from 45 to 64 the increase will be from 26,730,000 to 39,807,000, and over 65 from 8,419,000 to the astonishing figure of 22,051,000.

More Work for the Older

These figures indicate, in the opinion of those who wrote the report, the necessity for economic and social adjustments which will give greater opportunity to those able to do productive work in the higher age groups. The labor supply in the future will be, on the average, older than in the past, and the report points out that the tendency of industrial management to set an employment deadline at 40 is directly contrary to the tendency toward population increase at the higher age level.

There seems to be a definite tendency in the declining industries to hold a high proportion of older workers, while the newer and rapidly expanding industries have a high proportion of young workers. The need for skill in certain industries helps to retain older employes; in industries where technical improvements supplant an old craft with machinery the need for skill decreases. As a group the skilled occupations are declining in importance.

"We are not becoming a nation in wheel chairs, dependent for support on a vanishing company of productive workers," says the report. "In fact, the proportion of the total population in the productive age classes, 20-64 years, will apparently be greater throughout the twentieth century than during the nineteenth.

"In planning institutional facilities, it is important to recognize that for the nation as a whole the number of children of school age will not increase, but the age classes most heavily represented in certain types of institutions, for example homes for the aged and hospitals for mental patients, will greatly increase. The shift in age distribution also has many broad implications for our whole economic and social life."

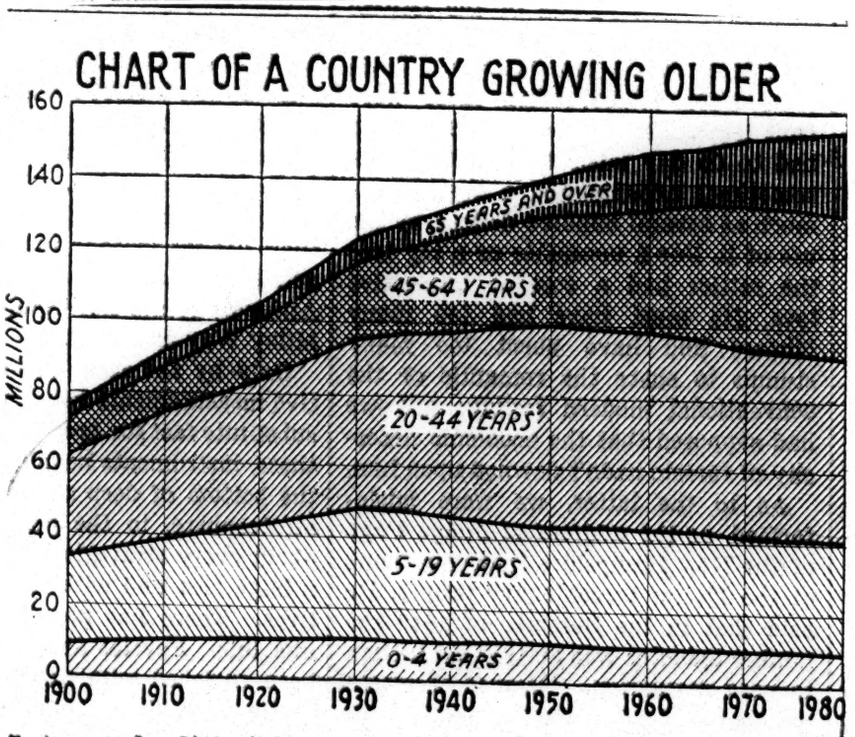
Rise in Productive Classes

The proportion of the total population in the economically productive age classes, 20-64 years, is expected to rise gradually from slightly over 55 per cent in 1930 to 61 to 63 per cent between 1950 and 1970, and then probably decline. The proportion in this group was relatively low fifty years ago; in 1980 it is expected that the number in this group will have increased from 73,200,000 to 91,600,000. Eighty-seven per cent of this increase will be in the group from 45 to 64 years of age.

"If all those over 65 years then received cash benefits raised by direct taxation," says the report, "the average tax on each man and woman in the productive age classes would be $24 for each $100 paid to an older person."

Therefore, the problem of supporting the increasing number of old persons is tied up definitely with employment and industrial development.

"Security of the opportunity to work for all who are able and willing to do so is coming to be recognized as a major responsibility, perhaps the first responsibility, of civilized government," the report goes on. "Millions of unemployed workers represent a tragic waste, obvious waste of human resources. The need is for economic adjustment that will stabilize economic development in relation to long-time trends. Sound distribution of population, healthy reproduction trends and opportunities for individual development depend on the establishment of a more adaptable and progressive economy."



Estimate of a United States population of more than 150,000,000 by 1980. Broadening of the older-age groupings accounts for much of the increase. Figures do not allow for future immigration.

Population – 1938

South Carolina

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 3, 1938

Developing Charleston County

Often and with gratification The News and Courier has remarked upon the notable growth of the rural and suburban population of Charleston county. This growth proceeds rapidly. The voting in last Tuesday's primary is proof of it.

In 19 precincts of Charleston county outside of the city 6,097 ballots (about 27 per cent) were cast in a total for the county of 22,404. This number of rural votes is approximately double the total white rural population, men, women and children, of the county in 1920.

By the last census, 1930, the white rural population was 12,021. Reckoning that not more than 63 or 65 per cent of the white adults voted, and that is about the percentage in the state, the white rural population of the county, minors included, must now be in the neighborhood of 18,000. Charleston has, outside of the city, as many white people as the average county in South Carolina has.

The total population of the county was 108,450 in 1920 and 101,050 in 1930, a loss for the decade of 7,400, but the loss in negro population was 9,471. For the white population was a gain. This loss of negroes is accounted for by migration.

It was not long ago that candidates scarcely regarded the country vote, it was so small, but the time has come when it is of great weight.

Columbia, S. C. State
December 2, 1938

TEN CITIES SURVEYED.

South Carolina cities to the number of ten are represented by standard surveys in the 15th edition, issuing this week, of the reliable and extensively utilized annual Market Guide of Editor and Publisher (New York). These cities are Columbia, Charleston, Anderson, Florence, Greenville, Greenwood, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Sumter and Union.

Data presented allow of interesting comparisons among these cities in respect of various indices to their commercial importance. The Guide undertakes, for instance, to estimate populations as of July, 1936; but the bases of such estimates vary. Columbia is credited as of that date with 70,000 persons within the corporate limits; no estimate is made of suburban population. Charleston claims 65,000 within corporate limits; 105,000 including suburbs; transients, 3,500.

Charleston's population is 45.1 per cent. Negro, Columbia's 37.8. Negro percentages for the other eight cities reported are: Anderson, 26.7; Florence, 41.1; Greenville, 37.3; Greenwood, 31.9; Orangeburg, 46; Rock Hill, 21.3; Spartanburg, 34.2; Sumter, 43.7; Union, 28.7. Charleston has the largest proportion of foreign-born residents, 2.6 per cent.; Columbia, 1 per cent.; the other cities all considerably less than 1 per cent.

In volume of retail trade the ranking of the 10 cities runs: Columbia, $22,809,000; Charleston, $20,142,000; Greenville, $19,105,000; Spartanburg, $13,074,000; Anderson, $7,301,000; Florence, $7,011,000; Sumter, $6,139,000; Greenwood, $4,744,000; Rock Hill, $4,302,000; Orangeburg, $3,716,000; Union, $2,961,000.

Retail zone populations as estimated are: Columbia, 380,000; Greenville, 784,000; Anderson, 325,000; Spartanburg, 300,000; Florence, 260,000; Charleston, 150,000; Sumter, 123,760; Greenwood, 93,817; Orangeburg, 63,864; Rock Hill, 50,000; Union, 40,000. Retail trading area of a given city is hardly susceptible of precise delimitation, and local trade groups have been known to do in regard to such areas some high, wide and handsome "claiming." Columbia's retail trading zone is defined as extending north 53 miles, south 40, east 54 and west 40; including Camden, Orangeburg, Lexington, Sumter, Bishopville, Great Falls, Newberry, Batesburg, Winnsboro, Hartsville, Manning and St. Matthews.

Columbia leads in number of income tax returns, 3,579. Charleston is next with 2,996. Then comes Greenville with 2,384. Spartanburg reports 1,356, Florence 686, Anderson 541, Sumter 454, Rock Hill 419, Greenwood 328, Orangeburg 260, Union 162.

Automobile registrations (for the county, as of June 30 last) show Greenville leading with 25,155 vehicles, the other cities coming in this order: Columbia, 21,086; Spartanburg, 20,053; Charleston, 17,907; Anderson, 13,670; Florence, 10,740; Orangeburg, 8,420; Rock Hill, 8,287; Sumter, 6,375; Greenwood, 6,113; Union, 3,550.

Lewisburg, Tenn., Tribune
December 23, 1938

Lewisburg Now Has 4,000 People

The present population of Lewisburg is estimated to be 4,000 persons. A house to house canvas within the city limits revealed approximately 3,400 persons living within the legal boundaries. Of these, 2800 are white and 600 Negroes. Urban growth outside the city limits is estimated to have netted Lewisburg 600 more persons, citizens in fact if not in law. The principal areas of recent growth are: (1) the Nashville Highway; Holly Grove section; (2) the old Belfast Road; (3) the Yell Road; and (4) the Columbia Highway-Silver Creek Road section.

The house to house canvass upon which these figures are based was made by a group of boys from the Negro and white high schools of the city. The survey sought to locate every family in Lewisburg and record the address, name of the family head, and number in family for each. The canvass was made under the direction of Morton King, who compiled the data. This unofficial census is in preparation for the public opinion study which he is making in Marshall County.

Cape Charles, Virginia. Times
November 24, 1938

POPULATION PROBLEMS

Some extremely interesting facts about our population are contained in a twenty-eight page pamphlet entitled, "Population Problems," published not so long ago by the National Resources Committee. The rate at which our population is increasing is slowing down so that the peak—probably 160,000,000 — will be reached about 1975, after which the population will remain approximately stationary or de crease somewhat. Furthermore, while the number under seventeen years of age is falling off, and will fall off more abruptly after 1940, those above sixty-five now numbering about 8,000,000 will increase to about 22,000,000 by 1980. Contrary to popular belief, the Negro population, as the pamphlet shows, is increasing at a much slower rate than the white population.

These and other significant facts about our population are set forth in the pamphlet to point the direction in which local, state and national governments must aim their efforts in order to provide for all citizens the greatest opportunity for individual development. "Population Problems" is itself only one of a series of publications of the National Resources Committee. Others are: "Planning Our Resources," "Our Cities," "Regional Planning," "The States and Planning," and "Water Planning." The pamphlets cost ten cents apiece and can be secued from the Superintendent of Documents or from the Extension Division, Charlottesville.